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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
9 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
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11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

12 Plaintiff,

13 vs.  
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18 JOEL ARIAS-CASILLAS,

19 Defendant.  
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CASE NO. 11cr1623-MMA

[Related Civil Case No. 12cv1403-MMA]

**ORDER SUMMARILY DISMISSING  
DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO  
VACATE UNDER § 2255**

[Doc. No. 33]

22 Defendant Joel Arias-Casillas has filed a pre-typed, form motion, requesting the Court  
23 reduce his time in federal custody pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255, arguing that (1) his imprisonment  
24 time is harsher as a non-citizen in violation of his constitutional rights, and (2) a 1995 United States  
25 Attorney General Memorandum allows a one to two level downward departure from the applicable  
26 guideline sentencing range in return for an alien's concession of deportability and agreement to  
27 accept a final order of deportation. For the following reasons, the Court summarily **DISMISSES** the  
28 motion.

1 DISCUSSION

2 On May 24, 2011, pursuant to a written plea agreement, Defendant pleaded guilty to  
3 Superseding Information charging two counts of violating Title 8, United States Code, Section 1325.  
4 *See Fast Track Plea Agreement*, Doc. No. 15. On February 27, 2012, the Court sentenced  
5 Defendant on count 1 to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons for a term of 6 months,  
6 and on count 2 to a term of 24 months, to run concurrently to count 1 for a total term of 30 Months.  
7 *See Judgment*, Doc. No. 32.

8 Title 28 of the United States Code, section 2255 provides that if a defendant's motion, file,  
9 and records "conclusively show that the movant is entitled to no relief" the Court summarily may  
10 dismiss the motion without sending it to the United States Attorney for response. *See* 28 U.S.C. §  
11 2255(b). The rules regarding Section 2255 proceedings similarly state that the Court summarily  
12 may order dismissal of a 2255 motion without service upon the United States Attorney only "[i]f it  
13 plainly appears from the face of the motion, any attached exhibits, and the record of prior  
14 proceedings that the moving party is not entitled to relief . . .". Rule 4(a), RULES-SECTION 2255  
15 PROCEEDINGS (West 2009).<sup>1</sup> Thus, when a movant fails to state a claim upon which relief can be  
16 granted, or when the motion is incredible or patently frivolous, the district court may summarily  
17 dismiss the motion. *Cf. United States v. Burrows*, 872 F.2d 915, 917 (9th Cir. 1989); *Marrow v.*  
18 *United States*, 772 F.2d 525, 526 (9th Cir. 1985).

19 A defendant may waive his right to file a section 2255 motion to challenge his sentence, but  
20 such a waiver must so expressly. *United States v. Nunez*, 223 F.3d 956, 959 (9th Cir. 2000).  
21 However, a defendant may not waive an ineffective assistance of counsel claim challenging the  
22 knowing and voluntary nature of the plea agreement or the voluntariness of the waiver itself. *United*  
23 *States v. Jeronimo*, 398 F.3d 1149, 1156 n. 4 (9th Cir. 2005). Defendant's plea agreement states in  
24 part:

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 <sup>1</sup> Similarly, a court deciding a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 is not required to hold an  
27 evidentiary hearing if "the motion and the files and records of the case conclusively show that the  
28 prisoner is entitled to no relief." 28 U.S.C. § 2255(b). "Mere conclusory statements by the petitioner  
do not justify a hearing." *Baumann v. United States*, 692 F.2d 565, 571 (1982). Instead, a defendant  
must make "specific factual allegations which, if true, would entitle him to relief." *Id.* As discussed  
below, Defendant has failed to allege sufficient facts showing a possible right to relief. Therefore, an  
evidentiary hearing is not warranted in this case.

1 In exchange for the Government's concessions in this plea agreement, defendant  
2 waives, to the full extent of the law, any right to appeal or to collaterally attack the  
3 guilty plea, conviction and sentence, including any restitution order . . . If defendant  
4 breaches this plea agreement, at any time, by appealing or collaterally attacking the  
conviction or sentence, in any way, the Government may prosecute defendant for any  
counts, including those with mandatory minimum sentences, dismissed or not charged  
pursuant to this plea agreement.

5 See Doc. No. 15 at 3. The Ninth Circuit approves of such waivers on public policy grounds,  
6 reasoning that finality is "perhaps the most important benefit of plea bargaining." *United States v.*  
7 *Navarro-Botello*, 912 F.2d 318, 322 (9th Cir. 1990). Courts will generally enforce a defendant's  
8 waiver of his right to appeal if: (1) "the language of the waiver encompasses the defendant's right to  
9 appeal on the grounds claimed on appeal," and (2) "the waiver is knowingly and voluntarily made."  
10 *United States v. Martinez*, 143 F.3d 1266, 1270-71 (9th Cir. 1998). The Court concludes that both  
11 of these requirements are met in this case. Accordingly, Defendant's motion is barred and must be  
12 dismissed because of his plea agreement waiver.

13 Even if Defendant had not waived his right to attack his conviction and sentence, his motion  
14 would fail on the merits. Defendant argues that, as a result of his deportable alien status, he has  
15 been unable to participate in programs that would entitle him to early release in violation of the  
16 Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected  
17 this argument in *McLean v. Crabtree*, 173 F.3d 1176 (9th Cir. 1999). There, the court held,  
18 "excluding prisoners with detainers from participating in community-based treatment programs, and  
19 consequently from sentence reduction eligibility, is at least rationally related to the BOP's legitimate  
20 interest in preventing prisoners from fleeing detainers while participating in community treatment  
21 programs." *Id.* at 1176. Additionally, Defendant's argument that the Court could depart downward  
22 because he is a deportable alien is precluded by statute and current Ninth Circuit case law. By  
23 statute, the Court may depart downward only if there are "aggravating or mitigating circumstances .  
24 . . not adequately taken into consideration by the Sentencing Commission." 18 U.S.C. § 3553(b).  
25 Specifically, the Ninth Circuit has held that the threat of deportation is not a factor that the district  
26 court may consider for sentencing purposes. *United States v. Alvarez-Cardenas*, 902 F.2d 734, 737  
27 (9th Cir. 1990).

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**CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing reasons, the Court summarily **DISMISSES** Defendant's Motion to Vacate Under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 [Doc. No. 33]. Defendant has not made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right, and accordingly, the Court does not issue a certificate of appealability. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c).

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

DATED: June 14, 2012

  
Hon. Michael M. Anello  
United States District Judge